

John Anderson

From: John Anderson
Sent: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 7:48 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: release on today's cabinet meeting in thailand

Greetings all. Here's an update on the government's emergency healing and reconstruction efforts.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's cabinet met today and approved a resolution to help citizens and businesses recover from the recent violence in Bangkok. The steps include:

- 1) Increasing the area eligible for relief coverage from only the Ratchaprasong intersection area to the entire Bangkok province.
- 2) Providing people with additional financial support of 7,500 baht/month over and above the compensation required by law from the social security office.
- 3) Assistance to big retailers: allocating 417 million baht to help pay for one month of employee wages, plus allocating 444 million baht to help ensure that rents are paid to lessees.
- 4) Assistance to small retailers: approving 50,000-baht grants to owners whose shops were burnt, and helping small retailers relocate to new locations; authorizing 6-year, collateral free loans of 300,000 baht, with 0% interest the first year and 3% interest in subsequent years, for businesses victimized by the violence.
- 5) Guaranteeing insurance coverage for victims.
- 6) Setting up a "Thai Sammakee" (Thai Unity) Fund to receive relief donations from the public.
- 7) Directing the Interior Ministry and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security to launch a "Restore Community" project to help neighborhoods and people with their recovery.

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John Anderson

From: Lisbeth Kaufman
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 6:07 PM
To: John Anderson
Subject: Thai Email

Hi John,

Here's some info for your FARA report. on May 27th I sent an email for Joey in Thailand. Below is the message I sent, and below that is the list of people to whom I sent it. I'm pretty sure this is the only mailing I did for Thailand. We created an email account to send it, entitled "info@thailandpressooffice.org"

date Thu, May 27, 2010 at 2:27 PM
subject News Alert: Thai House of Representatives Passes Budget Bill hide details May 27
mailed-by thailandpressooffice.org

News Alert: Thai House of Representatives Passes Budget Bill

The Thai House of Representatives passed the first reading of the 2011 fiscal year budget bill Thursday night (27th May 2010), exactly one week after red shirt protesters rioted in downtown Bangkok.

After spending over 26 hours to deliberate the bill, the House voted 250 to 172 to approve the bill in principle. In response to the swift approval of the bill, Thai Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij said that "the speed and manner in which the budget bill was passed shows how quickly Thailand is rebounding from the political turmoil, and that institutions within the kingdom have proven to be stable and mature enough to continue conducting the country's business."

Hours prior to the passing of the bill, the Thai composite stocks index (SET) closed at 737.28, up 8.34 points, or 1.14 per cent amid a Baht 22.31 billion turnover.

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John Anderson

From: John Anderson
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2010 10:19 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: finance ministry on 1Q data

Greetings all. Thai finance ministry statement on Q1 2010 data is below. Cheers.

John Anderson | Principal

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2010 JUL 29 PM 3:15

Office of the Minister of Finance, Thailand
Press Release

“Strong growth in Q1/2010 indicates the strength and resiliency of the Thai economy”

Mr. Korn Chatikavanij, Minister of Finance, responded to the strong economic performance in the first quarter of 2010 as announced today by the NESDB by stating that: **“The Thai economy was able to record higher-than-expected growth at 12.0% y-o-y, and build on recent momentum with a q-o-q growth rate of 3.8% against what was already a very strong quarter. Main drivers came from continued robust export growth at 16.2% y-o-y, while private investment and private consumption also showed strong rebound at 15.8% and 4.0% y-o-y, respectively.**

Indeed, the private investment improved at a rate not seen since 2003. Without the political disturbances, the Minister of Finance expects that the growth rate for the full year could have reached 7%. However, recent troubles are expected to significantly impact the tourism sector as well as overall investment sentiment. This could reduce growth by as much as 2 percent, to the 4.5 – 5.0 percent level.

“Our immediately priority is to lay out measures to help those directly affected by the 2-month long protest. Then the really challenging task remains of bridging the social divisions and building a new social contract. With that, confidence will return, and so will the kind of economic growth that we have already shown Thailand can achieve.”

Office of the Minister of Finance, Thailand 24 May 2010
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John Anderson

From: John Anderson
Sent: Wednesday, May 26, 2010 10:15 AM
To: John Anderson
Subject: fri-sat event in bangkok

Greetings all.

Here's a good, fun, colorful feature story for print, photographers and video: This Friday and Saturday, May 28-29, a 2 km stretch of Silom Road from Saladaeng intersection to Narathiwas will be transformed into a massive open-air market, from 10 am to 8 pm, to help people and businesses that were victims of the recent violence. The idea is to create a sort of pedestrian mall - part street fair, part shopping bazaar - where Thais can come support their fellow citizens by buying their goods. And maybe find a few bargains in the process.

This public-private initiative, dubbed the "Together We Can Grand Sale," is a good example of the government and people pulling together in a synergistic relief effort. On sale will be clothing, food, gifts, fashion accessories and other items by 600-700 affected vendors from Rajprasong, Victory Monument (Center one), Silom, Pratunaam and other places hit by violence.

Silom Road - just on the outskirts of the main protests - was severely impacted in the turmoil. The colorful street market should offer a pretty vivid contrast. Many have asked Finance Minister Korn Chatikavanij how ordinary citizens can help neighborhoods affected by the unrest, and his answer is simple: "Come spend your money."

Cheers....John

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